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21 August 1995

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Fiftieth session
Item 98 (b) of the provisional agenda*

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: DESERTIFICATION AND DROUGHT

Report of the Secretary-General

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In its resolution 48/175 of 21 December 1993 the General Assembly, while recalling its resolution 32/172 of 19 December 1977 and taking note of the recommendation contained in paragraph 38.27 of Agenda 21 1/ and of decision 93/33 of 18 June 1993 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report for submission to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

2. In its resolution, the General Assembly welcomed the support of the international community to countries affected by drought and desertification in light of Agenda 21, chapter 12, entitled "Managing fragile ecosystems: combating desertification and drought", and of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa and urged it to continue its support. It also took note of decision 93/33 of the Governing Council of UNDP to make the experience and expertise of the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO) available to all affected countries. It was also recommended that the cooperation between UNDP and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) be strengthened and enlarged. The resolution appealed to all members of the international community to support efforts undertaken at subregional levels within subregional organizations and within the United Nations system.

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II. SUPPORT BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO IMPLEMENT THE PROGRAMMES OUTLINED IN CHAPTER 12 OF AGENDA 21

3. The lessons learned and knowledge gained over the past two decades in desertification control and drought mitigation culminated in 1994 in the adoption of the Convention to Combat Desertification. Growing from the awareness of the nexus between environment and development generated by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992, this important international treaty represents a fundamental shift in the world community's response to desertification in both conceptual and operational terms.

4. In a comprehensive way, the Convention to Combat Desertification combines many of the key elements of what can be a successful international programme of desertification control. These include partnerships between contributor countries, government entities in affected countries, and civil society organizations. These also include the development of action programmes at national, subregional and regional levels, to be implemented, in the case of the national action programmes, through a participatory process involving affected communities, community-based organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). In addition, the Convention to Combat Desertification calls for flexible funding mechanisms to channel resources to the local level.

5. Of particular importance, the Convention to Combat Desertification calls for using innovative approaches in the preparation of national action programmes in affected countries. In creating these programmes, Governments have agreed to involve stakeholders and communities in defining problems and solutions and in the implementation. The national action programme process thus provides a prime opportunity for broad-based national participation in identifying the root causes of degeneration of the drylands, and in designing of planning and implementation processes to address them as well as other related sustainable development problems.

6. In order to cater for differences in the various affected regions of the world, the Convention to Combat Desertification incorporates four regional implementation annexes: for Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Northern Mediterranean countries. These will provide a framework within which the regional or subregional organizations can play a key role through the development of subregional action programmes and regional action programmes. For example in Africa, the regional and subregional organizations such as the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the Permanent Interstate Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS), the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development (IGADD), the Southern African Development Community (SADC), and the Arab Maghreb Union, will play a key role in areas that lend themselves to subregional cooperation such as the management of shared resources, exchanging knowledge and experiences, scientific and technical cooperation, drought monitoring and early warning, and the development of common policies in various areas such as trade.

III. IMPLEMENTATION OF UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL DECISION 93/33 THAT CALLS FOR THE EXPERIENCE AND TECHNICAL EXPERTISE OF UNSO IN DROUGHT AND DESERTIFICATION CONTROL TO BE MADE AVAILABLE TO ALL AFFECTED COUNTRIES, IN PARTICULAR THOSE IN AFRICA

7. In conformity with Agenda 21, paragraph 38.27, 2/ and as stated in UNDP Executive Board report DP/1994/58, UNDP has taken steps to strengthen its capacity to support desertification control activities world wide, particularly within the framework of the Convention to Combat Desertification. In this context, UNSO has been designated as the central entity within UNDP responsible for spearheading and supporting the agency's work in desertification control and drought mitigation in all affected regions. As such, UNSO provides substantive advice, technical support, and assistance in developing programmes at the national, subregional and regional, and international levels. In carrying out its functions, UNSO works in all developing countries affected by desertification and drought, and functions as an integral part of UNDP, bringing the resources of the organization to better support desertification control efforts. UNSO now places a major emphasis on "upstream" support for action programmes and capacity building to complement specific "downstream" projects, while undertaking vigorous resource mobilization to increase domestic and international funding to combat desertification.

8. Central to its new role, UNSO is undertaking efforts to support affected countries in developing their own national action programmes on desertification. In partnership with affected countries, UNSO helps to identify the root causes of desertification and to address the constraints and bottlenecks contributing to the problem. UNSO seeks to support the development of strategies for desertification control that fit the particular needs of the affected country or region, while simultaneously promoting the involvement of affected communities and building new global partnerships.

9. In UNDP Executive Board decision 95/6, the Board noted its support for the initiatives that the UNDP Administrator had taken in support of the implementation of the Convention to Combat Desertification, including the reorganization of UNSO and its activities in light of the Convention to Combat Desertification. The Executive Board further encouraged the Administrator to take the necessary steps to change the name of the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office in order to better reflect its new role. Since April 1995, the Office, while retaining its acronym UNSO, is now called the Office to Combat Desertification and Drought.

IV. STRENGTHENING OF COOPERATION BETWEEN UNEP AND UNDP IN COMBATING DESERTIFICATION AND DROUGHT

10. In response to Agenda 21, paragraph 38.27 on desertification, and as noted in the UNEP report to its Governing Council (UNEP/GC.18/3), the two programmes have continued to support their joint activities during this period.

11. The UNDP/UNEP joint venture has been an important operational arrangement in combating desertification in the Sudano-Sahelian region. During 1979-1994,

UNDP and UNEP together contributed $26.7 million in seed resources to this joint venture through UNSO for the implementation of the Programme of Action to Combat Desertification.

12. These seed resources have allowed UNSO to develop pilot projects, catalyse regional activities and carry out public information, sensitization and training programmes for assisting the 23 countries in the Sudano-Sahelian region. Through the joint venture and the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Trust Fund, UNSO has mobilized over $330 million for projects directly related to national and regional drought and desertification control activities.

13. The Administrator of UNDP and the Executive Director of UNEP issued a joint declaration in March 1994 to harness the comparative advantages of each organization: UNDP experience in development, its global network of country offices, its capacity to be operational at the country level and its coordination role for the United Nations system at the country level; UNEP experience in catalysing action on the environment, in promoting environmental management, its role in the coordination, sensing and assessment of global environment and desertification activities, and in the provision of technical, scientific and general information. This collaboration will actively support the implementation of the Convention to Combat Desertification.

14. To build upon their long and successful joint venture experience, UNEP and UNDP signed in 1995 a new partnership agreement to refocus the joint venture into the Partnership to Combat Desertification and Drought. Under the new UNEP and UNDP partnership agreement, the two organizations will develop programme packages and jointly mobilize resources in areas where the two organizations have complementary expertise. These programme packages will support the implementation of the Convention to Combat Desertification in all affected countries, particularly in Africa, and will be extended to other concerned organizations. Initially, these joint programmes will focus on: (a) awareness raising and sensitization on desertification; (b) monitoring and assessment of desertification; (c) supporting advisory services to Governments on policy issues related to desertification control; (d) providing support to NGOs for implementation of the Convention to Combat Desertification; (e) providing support to subregional and regional organizations for implementation of the Convention to Combat Desertification; (f) promoting work on scientific and technological issues relevant to desertification; (g) providing a means for cooperation at international level with other partners.

V. SUPPORT BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION AND DROUGHT

National initiatives

15. It is noted that the major responsibility for implementing measures to combat desertification and drought and more specifically the national action programme process outlined in the Convention rests with the affected countries. For the Convention to be successfully implemented, affected countries have to play the lead role. The initiative which has been demonstrated by affected countries in taking this responsibility is duly noted, with the hope that the

efforts that they have initiated will result in effective, participatory programmes.

Within subregional and regional organizations

16. Regional and subregional organizations continue to play an important role in the implementation of the provisions of Agenda 21, chapter 12, and support to the Convention to Combat Desertification process.

17. CILSS, IGADD and SADC, with support from UNSO/UNDP, UNEP, United Nations multilateral organizations and bilateral organizations, have launched initial activities including consultation meetings among their respective member States for the elaboration of the subregional processes on issues in the context of Agenda 21, chapter 12, and the negotiation of the Convention to Combat Desertification to support national action programmes and launch subregional action programmes.

International community

18. The support in facilitating these national, subregional and regional initiatives is noted, with the hope that these new partnerships envisioned under the Convention can be developed and sustained.

Bilateral donors

19. Bilateral donors have played an important role both substantially and financially in contributing to the negotiation process leading to the adoption of the Convention to Combat Desertification.

20. While recognizing the primary responsibility which rests with affected countries to initiate the national action programme process, bilateral donors have supported nationally driven efforts to implement the draft resolution on urgent action for Africa and the Convention to Combat Desertification.

United Nations system

21. The United Nations and UNDP/UNSO, UNEP, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Bank and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, have given support for activities focused on the negotiation process of the Convention to Combat Desertification and on preparations for its implementation. The effective work of the interim secretariat of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Convention to Combat Desertification has contributed significantly to the substantive results of the Convention to Combat Desertification process. UNSO and UNEP played a significant role in the negotiation process for the Convention to Combat Desertification, including financial and technical support to the interim secretariat, to regional and

subregional organizations, to affected countries, and for the participation of NGOs in the negotiation process.

22. Since the adoption of the Convention to Combat Desertification, numerous activities have taken place in support to the resolution on urgent action for Africa. With regard to support for national level activities, in response to country interest, the United Nations system is supporting (with other interested partners) preparatory activities and arrangements for the organization of national forums which are meant to bring together the stakeholders and partners to launch the national action programme process and to agree on means of supporting its implementation. Following the holding of national forums, technical support by the United Nations system will be provided for programme development as requested and required. In preparation for these national forums, a number of awareness raising materials have been published and activities have been organized at the national level to draw attention to the global problem, the Convention, and national efforts to address desertification and drought. These included celebration of the first annual National Desertification Day, on 17 June 1995. In support for subregional/regional level activities, the United Nations system has also extended institutional support to the appropriate subregional organizations to contribute to building the capacity to play a major role in the Convention to Combat Desertification process and in particular in the subregional action programme process.

23. In addition, collaboration with the Inter-agency Planning Group for Environmental Funds is taking place with a view to developing innovative approaches and contributing to the development of national desertification funds. Support is also being provided to OAU/concerned organizations and countries in Africa to initiate a reflection on the objectives/scope, governance for national desertification funds and innovative methods for domestic resource mobilization. The United Nations system has also supported the work of NGOs, including the establishment of the International NGO Network on Desertification. To harmonize approaches for supporting the draft resolution entitled "Urgent action for Africa", 3/ as well as to facilitate the exchange of information and coordination of activities, UNSO/UNDP and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)/Club du Sahel jointly organized an informal meeting with bilateral and multilateral organizations.

VI. CONCLUSION

24. Support for the implementation of the Convention to Combat Desertification is urgently called for in light of the fact that globally, more than 900 million people live under the shadow of desertification and drought. Especially important is the need to support immediate actions in Africa, in line with the draft resolution concerning urgent action for Africa, which was adopted by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification to facilitate early and concerted action for the region, prior to the entry into force of the Convention to Combat Desertification. Affected countries, especially those in Africa, will need to launch a range of activities, the most significant of which will be the preparation of a new generation of national action programmes. In support of

these national initiatives, the support of the international community, including the United Nations and its agencies, including UNDP and UNSO, UNEP, IFAD, FAO, WMO, and the World Bank, is noted and further encouraged.

25. Although General Assembly resolution 48/175 appealed to donor countries to contribute to UNSO, contributions have decreased since the adoption of the resolution. It is noted that even though the Convention to Combat Desertification adoption has caused an increase in interest, this has not been reflected in the level of multilateral funding for the Convention to Combat Desertification. In fact, since the adoption of Agenda 21, resources have not increased. While noting that further support is needed, it is hoped that greater efforts can be made to increase contributions for multilateral funding for the Convention to Combat Desertification. It is also noted that in view of the expanded geographical responsibility and in order to support the implementation process of the Convention to Combat Desertification, UNDP established the UNDP Fund to Combat Desertification and Drought. Donor countries and other interested parties are invited to support the Fund with contributions.

26. In addition, an appeal is made for donors to support subregional programmes, and active subregional organizations, including CILSS, IGADD, SADC, and the Arab Maghreb Union. Finally, and perhaps of most importance, an appeal is made to all parties to actively involve NGOs and community-based organizations in the implementation of the Convention to Combat Desertification in view of its participatory approach.

Notes

1/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-24 June 1992.

2/ Agenda 21, paragraph 38.27: "The role of the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO), with added resources that may become available, operating under the umbrella of UNDP and with the support of UNEP, should be strengthened so that it can assume an appropriate major advisory role and participate effectively in the implementation of Agenda 21 provisions related to combating drought and desertification and to land resource management. In this context, the experience gained could be used by all other countries affected by drought and desertification, in particular those in Africa, with special attention to countries most affected or classified as least developed countries."

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S/1995/685
11 August 1995

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fiftieth session
Item 81 of the provisional agenda*
MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fiftieth year

Letter dated 10 August 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I am writing to you concerning the letter dated 3 August 1995 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) (A/50/328-S/1995/644).

Upon instructions from my Government, I would like to draw your attention to the fact that in the said letter, the legitimate Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina is being referred to as "the Muslim leadership in Bosnia and Herzegovina", and its army as "the Muslim Army". Addressing a State Member of the United Nations and its army in such a manner reflects not only the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia's (Serbia and Montenegro) ill-designs for, but also its distorted concept of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

I would also like to emphasize that Turkey placed its peace-keeping troops under the command of the United Nations, with your Excellency's recommendation and upon the approval of the Security Council. The performance of the Turkish troops within the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) as a competent and impartial unit has been acclaimed by the United Nations on numerous occasions.

On the other hand, as sovereign States, Turkey and the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina are fully entitled to promote further and deepen their bilateral relations. This in no way could be construed as a contradiction with the status of Turkey as a troop-contributor country to UNPROFOR.

The Turkish peace-keeping contingent within UNPROFOR will continue to discharge its tasks under the instructions of the UNPROFOR Commander and within the framework of its mandate.

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I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 81 of the provisional agenda and of the Security Council.

(Signed) İnal BATU
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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11 August 1995

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fiftieth session
Item 28 of the provisional agenda*
THE SITUATION IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fiftieth year

Letter dated 11 August 1995 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions of my Government, I am writing to you regarding the letter of Mr. Sacirbey of 7 August 1995 addressed to you (A/50/337-S/1995/664, annex), concerning the current situation with the Serb refugees in the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina caused by Croatia's aggression against Krajina.

In the above letter once again falsehoods have been advanced with the aim of discrediting the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in connection with the admittance of refugees into its territory and its alleged assistance to "Karadzic's authorities and military commanders".

It has been alleged that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, transgressing against humanitarian norms, had closed its border for all men of fighting age, Serb refugees, who recently fled the territory of Krajina. At the same time, it has been alleged that the goal of this policy is to expand the army of the Republic of Srpska.

The Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia rejects most categorically such ill-intentioned allegations, which once again highlight the hypocritical and war-mongering policy of the Muslim authorities in Sarajevo towards the Serbs in the Republic of Srpska and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has not only been accepting generously all refugees from the territories engulfed by the war - be they Serbs, Croats,

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Muslims or others - but under the heavy burden of unjustified sanctions and its own precarious position, has struggled to assist and provide care for them. Almost 600,000 refugees found shelter in the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, excluding the latest wave of refugees that has headed for the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, estimated at 250,000 people by independent sources, following Croatia's aggression on Krajina.

The daily reports of the United Nations peace-keeping force deployed in the field irrefutably evidence that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia accords equal treatment to all refugees who decide to seek shelter in its territory. Those reports provide data on a daily basis on the number of refugees that enter the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Not a single word from the reports supports the claim contained in the letter of the Muslim Foreign Minister to the effect that the Yugoslav authorities classify refugees as to those of fighting age and those that are not and that the men of fighting age have been denied entry into the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, thus indirectly increasing the army of the Republic of Srpska.

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has never discriminated against the refugees regardless of their nationality, ethnic origin or religion. It should be noted that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has provided shelter for 40,000 Muslim refugees, including 300 Muslim soldiers who fled Bosnia and Herzegovina and came to Yugoslavia, where they have been received with understanding for their hardships, the same as all other refugees who have been forced to seek shelter in the territory of multi-ethnic and multinational Yugoslavia. That fact has also been confirmed by the report of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC News, Issue No. 32 of 9 August 1995), which says that on 4 August 1995 the ICRC members visited 299 men and 1 woman who had fled Zepa and found refuge in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

The request that on border crossings between the Muslim Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia the representatives of the Bosnian Muslim Government be present, is irrational in itself since the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia does not share a border with the territories under the control of the Muslim Government in Sarajevo. Therefore, it is illogical that the representatives of the Sarajevo Government oversee border crossings between the Republic of Srpska and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The request is also redundant since the border between the Republic of Srpska and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has already been constantly monitored by the humanitarian mission of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia.

It is obvious that the letter of the Muslim Foreign Minister is aimed at creating a false picture on the role and alleged aspirations of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia at a time when the aggression and genocide against the Serb people in the Republic of Serb Krajina continues as well as in the whole territory under control of the Muslim Government in Sarajevo. Such allegations again give rise to confusion and interfere with the activities of the United Nations peace-keeping force. Moreover, they serve to impose false concepts that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is indirectly assisting the expansion of the army of the Republic of Srpska, which fits the pattern of well-known and oft-used practice of turning the media against the Serb people.

Finally, I wish to lay particular emphasis on the well-known fact that the forces loyal to A. Izetbegovic's Government in Sarajevo, deliberately and ever-so-fiercely continue flagrantly to threaten the peace process and undermine directly every peace initiative. At the same time, by their offensive actions, they stoke up the flames of war in the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina and hand in hand with the regime of F. Tudjman undermine all efforts of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the international community as a whole finally to reach a solution to the conflict in those territories. Regrettably, all this is totally ignored by many members of the world Organization, which is to the detriment of peace efforts towards the resolution of the civil war in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 28 of the provisional agenda and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIĆ
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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S/1995/689
14 August 1995

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Fiftieth session
Item 8 of the provisional agenda*
ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND
ORGANIZATION OF WORK

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fiftieth year

Letter dated 11 August 1995 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I am writing to you concerning the letters from the Permanent Representatives of Croatia (A/50/333-S/1995/659) and Slovenia (A/50/334-S/1995/661) addressed to you.

Those letters represent a continuation of the propaganda campaign of the above-mentioned former Yugoslav republics and contain a malicious interpretation of the position of the United Nations concerning the status of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in the United Nations.

They testify to their authors' lack of knowledge of international law and the practice of international relations, particularly regarding the United Nations and to the fact that their sole goal was to satisfy certain internal political needs.

I should be grateful if you would have the present setter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 8 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIC
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fiftieth session
Item 81 of the provisional agenda*
MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fiftieth year

Letter dated 13 August 1995 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon the instructions of my Government, I am writing to inform you of the totally unprovoked artillery attack of the Croatian armed forces against the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, launched on 12 August 1995 from 10.35 a.m. till 11 a.m. from the area of Dunave Krajnje (Konavli). On that occasion, the Croatian army launched two mortar shells into the area of Debela Ljut and six shells in the area of Kožen Do.

The obvious goal of the latest aggressive acts of the Republic of Croatia, whose regime has been encouraged by the lack of energetic condemnation by the Security Council in the wake of its aggression against the Republic of Serb Krajina, triggering the "ethnic cleansing" of more than 250,000 Serbs from the Krajina and the largest exodus of civilian population ever since the outbreak of the conflicts in the territories of the former Yugoslavia, is to involve the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in the war.

It should be emphasized that in the present situation the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has exerted maximum restraint. However, should such aggressive acts against the security of my country be repeated, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia reserves the right to respond adequately.

If the Security Council fails to take energetic action in response to such militant and provocative behaviour by Croatia, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia will take it as tacit support for the aggressive policy of Zagreb,

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which represents the greatest threat to peace and stability in this part of Europe.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 81 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIĆ
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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SECURITY COUNCIL
Fiftieth year

Letter dated 13 August 1995 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a letter from Mr. Vladislav Jovanović, Federal Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, addressed to Mr. Thorvald Stoltenberg, Co-Chairman of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under item 81 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIĆ
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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ANNEX

Letter dated 13 August 1995 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Yugoslavia addressed to Mr. Thorvald Stoltenberg, Co-Chairman of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia

Despite the efforts of the Co-Chairmen, members of the Contact Group, Security Council and a number of prominent international public figures, the unscrupulous aggression of Croatia against the United Nations Protected Areas and the military presence of the regular units of the Croatian military in the territory of the former Bosnia and Herzegovina continue unabated. In joint operations with the Muslims the regular units of the Croatian armed forces are fighting the Serbs along the entire line of the front of the former Bosnia and Herzegovina. At the same time, Croatia carries out attacks against the territory of the former Republic of Yugoslavia. The former Republic of Yugoslavia considers those attacks an aggression on its territory:

- On 12 August 1995, Croatian armed forces continued their aggressive activities along the entire line of separation in the United Nations Protected Area Sector East, particularly near Osijek, operating incessant small-arms and mortar fire.

- On 12 August 1995, regular units of the Croatian armed forces shelled the positions of the armed forces of the Republic of Srpska in the area of Trebinje.

- On 12 August 1995, units of the armed forces of Croatia from the area of Dunave Krajnje (Pelinovo brdo) engaged with mortar fire objectives of the army of Yugoslavia, the observation post in the area of Debela Ljut and the area of Kožen Do.

- At the same time, regular units of the Croatian armed forces continue their joint operations with Muslim units along the entire line of the front.

It is obvious that, by its aggressive acts, Croatia is trying to provoke large-scale armed conflicts in the entire region. It is firm in its attempts to achieve by aggression and violence what it will not be able to achieve in peace.

For its part, the former Republic of Yugoslavia, which is lastingly and genuinely committed to peace and a peaceful solution to the crisis, with full respect for the interests and equality of all concerned, will invest its best efforts to avoid being provoked and will continue to render a concrete contribution to peace and stability in the region in which we live.

I therefore call on you to take urgent and concrete measures within your competence, particularly in cooperation with the member States of the Contact Group, to compel Croatia to cease fire and establish peace in the entire region

and to stop and prevent Croatian aggressive acts. In the interest of peace, each and every future behaviour of Croatia of this type must result in a negative consequence for it.

(Signed) Vladislav JOVANOVIĆ

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18 August 1995

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MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fiftieth year

Letter dated 13 August 1995 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Corrigendum

Page 2, penultimate paragraph, line 1

For the former Republic of Yugoslavia read the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

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25 August 1995

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MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fiftieth year

Letter dated 13 August 1995 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Corrigendum

Page 2, paragraph 1, lines 9 and 10

For the former Republic of Yugoslavia read the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

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